

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Magazine

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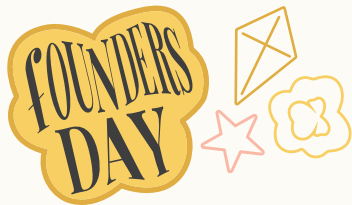
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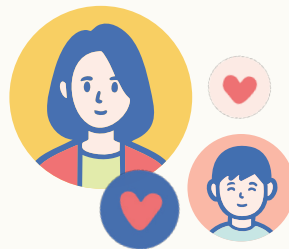
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Curve Balls & Comebacks

BY: ISABELLA MARKOVSKI-DICKEY | ALPHA/DEPAUW



I've been reflecting on life's curve balls: the unexpected moments (big or small) that knock us off balance, leave us feeling low, and make the path ahead seem uncertain. Whether it's a missed opportunity, the loss of a loved one, or simply a season of sadness, setbacks have a way of sneaking up on us, demanding more than we think we can give.

If you're anything like me, you've had days when the weight of it all feels heavy. How do I bounce back? How can I ever find inspiration or creativity again? I've learned that resilience isn't about never falling but about how we rise again and again. This issue displays what members can achieve with perseverance and resilience: the Founders Day & Friendship Fund message on page 6; this year's 35 Under 35 recipients on page 8; and Helen Wallace's, Alpha Tau/Cincinnati, story on page 22.

In hoping it helps even just one of you reading this, below are a few lessons I've gathered so far in 2025:

Allow yourself to feel. It's okay to be sad, disappointed, or frustrated. Give yourself permission to process those

emotions, but don't let them define you. Lean on your support network. Get coffee with friends. Meet with colleagues in person. Sometimes, a simple conversation can reignite a spark or remind you of your strengths or joy.

Change your environment. A jolt of new energy often strikes when we step outside our routines, or even just leave our normal day-to-day environments for a bit. Take a walk, visit a restaurant, or try to change your perspective.

Celebrate small wins. Progress isn't always dramatic. Sometimes, just getting through the day is enough. Recognize and honor those small moments.

You're not alone. Even the most successful people have faced setbacks and self-doubt. Their stories remind us that perseverance and self-assurance can turn obstacles into stepping stones.

Setbacks, speed bumps, obstacles, or whatever you want to call them are part of every journey. Luckily, you will get through them, and better, brighter days are ahead. You got this.

With you in every comeback, *Bella*

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NOTICES:

- Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, founded at Indiana Asbury College (DePauw University), Greencastle, Indiana, on Jan. 27, 1870, is the first Greek-letter fraternity for women.
- "Kappa Alpha Theta," "Theta," its coat of arms, its badges, and the Kappa Alpha Theta logo are registered trademarks of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity.
- Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student organization at Duke, Santa Clara, Georgetown, and Harvard, these schools prohibit using their names in any published reference to our Beta Rho, Eta Lambda, Theta Iota, or Zeta Xi Chapters. We designate those chapters with a tilde (~).
- While some terms used in telling members' stories and personal experiences are not currently in use, they were accurate at the time of these members' college experiences.

Isabella's portrait is by Kate Kosnoff, katekosnoffcreative.com.



Zeta Kappa Chapter Reestablished

Zeta Kappa Chapter at the University of South Carolina was formally reinstalled on Sunday, Nov. 9! This marks a significant milestone for Theta, as Zeta Kappa Chapter becomes Theta's 140th active college chapter. Originally established on campus in 1990, Zeta Kappa Chapter was active until 2001, initiating more than 400 members during that time.

Kappa Alpha Theta joins a vibrant Panhellenic community at USC that includes 13 other organizations: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Zeta, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Mu, Pi Beta Phi, and Zeta Tau Alpha.

Fraternity President Erica Ochs shared, "From the onset of the opportunity to reestablish our Zeta Kappa Chapter at University of South Carolina, we have been so welcomed by our Panhellenic peers. I am thrilled that Kappa Alpha Theta has once again joined this supportive and enthusiastic community of women."

Welcome back, Zeta Kappa Chapter!

Maintaining Connections

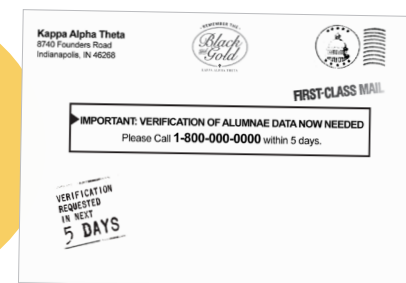
Each college chapter (active and inactive) has an alumnae contact officer (ACO). It is this volunteer's responsibility to ensure that all the women from her chapter remain connected to Theta. She does this by finding lost Thetas: women for whom we no longer have a current address.

Technology has made the duties of this volunteer position easy to do from anywhere in the world. In fact, we have ACOs living in El Salvador and Germany! You can also be an ACO for a chapter other than your chapter of initiation. If you think this might be the volunteer role for you, check out the vacancies below and email volunteerengagement@kappaalphatheta.org.

- Lambda/Vermont
- Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt
- Alpha Psi/Lawrence
- Beta Iota/Colorado
- Beta Upsilon/British Columbia
- Beta Omega/Colorado College
- Gamma Gamma/Rollins
- Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor
- Epsilon Nu/Virginia Tech
- Eta Lambda/~
- Eta Mu/Occidental
- Eta Tau/Tampa
- Theta Iota/~
- Theta Lambda/Rochester
- Theta Mu/Mines

Remember the Black and Gold: Theta's Oral History Project

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ONE OF THESE POSTCARDS?



Theta has partnered with Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI) to collect member stories and update contact information!

Your Theta story ensures that the Theta archives captures the unique experiences and perspectives that make this membership so special. Additionally, keeping your contact information current guarantees you stay connected to Theta and receive important updates.

Questions? Visit www.kappaalphatheta.org/heritage/oral-history-project.

National CASA/GAL'S Federal Funding Reinstated

In the Summer 2025 issue of the *Theta Magazine*, it was reported that National CASA/GAL Association's federal funding had been terminated. As of August 2025, the funding termination was reversed for National CASA/GAL federal grants.

National CASA/GAL's website shared the following:

"The notice received from the [Department of Justice (DOJ)] stated, *The Department, with the benefit of the information provided by the recipient in its appeal and after a thorough review of all available information about the award (including the pertinent statutory framework), determines that the award activities do align sufficiently with the Department's priorities, including protecting American children.*

We are deeply grateful for this news from the DOJ and look forward to resuming our partnership with them in [the] advancement [of] the CASA/GAL mission."

Founders Day | 2026

Over the course of my Founders Day messages, I've shared with you what I have learned about our sisterhood having had the opportunity to oversee the Friendship Fund. It seems fitting for me to end on that note as I now write my final message as Fraternity president.

Established in 1926, the Friendship Fund is based on the beautiful, timeless idea of sisters supporting sisters during their times of urgent need culminating in extreme financial hardship brought about by situations that could never have been foreseen like natural disasters, death, or other life-altering circumstances.

In the time I've held this Fraternity president office, more than **\$240,000** have been gifted to members in need.

The support of the Friendship Fund is a testament to the strength of our sisterhood, but it is also an inspiration to honor the bonds of our sisterhood. All too often, our sisters experience tragic situations that a gift from the Friendship Fund cannot aid. We also have sisters who have chronic financial hardship, and the Friendship Fund cannot support that either. What I have learned, though, is we recognize when our sisters are in these circumstances and we desire to support them in the name of our beloved fraternity, Kappa Alpha Theta. Often, members turn to the Friendship Fund in these moments because we want our sisters and dear friends to be seen and lifted by the bonds that originally brought us together, but the Friendship Fund may not be the answer to every call.

EXERCISING THE *widest influence for good* SINCE 1870.



BETTIE LOCKE



HANNAH FITCH



ALICE ALLEN



BETTIE TIPTON

My aspiration for our sisterhood is that we never stop looking over those we love that were brought together by Kappa Alpha Theta and may our support to one another not be limited to the Friendship Fund. I aspire for our chapters, college and alumnae alike, to collaborate in the background to find financial solutions for members in need. I aspire that, in the name of Kappa Alpha Theta, we find a way to console our sisters when financial assistance cannot. **I hope that we do these things in the same spirit as the Friendship Fund: watching over our sisters with love and support, perhaps even organizing together on their behalf without them knowing we are doing so.**

I have seen now, many times over, how the Friendship Fund is the first place we turn to when a sister is hurting. My heart has been filled in those moments when we could provide a sister with the financial assistance she urgently needs. With your support, the Friendship Fund will endure, and we will continue to be able to support members when their need is that which the Friendship Fund was created to aid.

In those times when the Friendship Fund is not the answer, I hope the Fund still inspires and reminds you of the bonds that brought us together. Those bonds are deep, strong, and they also endure. Together, we can always make a difference to our sisters in the name of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Loyally, *Erica Ochs*

Erica D'Angelo Ochs
FRATERNITY PRESIDENT

35 under 35

In 2017, Kappa Alpha Theta announced the 35 Under 35 Award. Since then, the recipients of this award have been recognized for various distinguished achievements. They are members committed to Theta's values, and they are members who are influential in their professions and communities. This award is presented in non-Convention years.

We're so pleased to honor this year's 35 Under 35 winners who exemplify absolute excellence and are taking the world by storm.

Business, Economics, Finance



**ALPHA
OMICRON/
OKLAHOMA**

Jessica Cipolla

McDonald's Strategy & Operations

Jessica Cipolla works in strategy & operations at McDonald's global headquarters (MHQ) in Chicago, where she drives strategic planning, alignment, and resource management for the North America impact team. Passionate about community, she is active in the Junior League of Chicago and the Chicagoland Chamber's Emerging Leaders Council. She also serves as executive chair of the Children's Research Fund Junior Board supporting Lurie Children's Hospital, and volunteers as scholarship review committee chair for Theta Foundation. Jessica thrives at the intersection of strategy and service, bringing purpose and energy to every effort she supports.

Community, Leadership, Advocacy

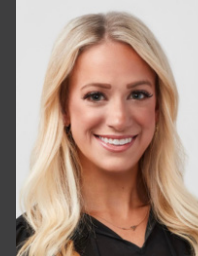


**EPSILON
EPSILON/
BAYLOR**

Dana Gonzalez

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Dana Gonzalez is a licensed clinical social worker and the founder of Haven Before the Harvest Psychotherapy PLLC in Austin, Tex. She works with children, adolescents, and adults navigating anxiety, OCD, trauma, and life transitions. Rooted in authenticity, curiosity, and compassion, Dana offers trauma-informed, evidence-based care to help clients feel empowered and hopeful. With advanced training in EMDR and ERP, she walks alongside clients in healing and growth. Through her practice, Dana aims to create a space where people feel seen, supported, and connected, believing that showing up with courage and care can help change a life.



**BETA ZETA/
OKLAHOMA
STATE**

Allie Dodson

Vice President of Private Banking

Allie Dodson serves as vice president of private banking for Prism Bank and is a dedicated fitness instructor and active philanthropist in the Oklahoma City community. With a passion for service, she volunteers her time to local nonprofits and serves on boards supporting the arts, children, and community development. Her professional and personal missions align in helping others thrive, whether through financial guidance, wellness, or charitable work. Through her leadership and volunteerism, she strives to make a lasting impact and foster positive change in the lives of those around her.



**ETA PHI/
BELMONT**

Paige Lauri

Executive Director

Paige Lauri is the executive director of Tybee Island YMCA and Recreation in Georgia, leading the community in spirit, mind, and body. She achieved her Bachelor of Social Entrepreneurship from Belmont University and her Master of Recreation and Youth Development from Texas A&M University. Through over 15 years in the industry, Paige has empowered thousands of youth and hundreds of staff through her work with summer camps and nonprofits. She spearheads the Camp Cabinet for YMCA of Coastal Georgia with innovation and excellence, and is excited for the future of leadership and play in youth development in the region.



**GAMMA
OMEGA/
AUBURN**

Rachel Sprouse

Manager, Digital Marketing

Rachel Sprouse is an MBA candidate at Georgia Tech and former Atlanta Alumnae Chapter president. She currently serves as philanthropy chair for Georgia Tech's HOPE and as an international volunteer for Theta's young alumnae workgroup. Rachel balances a demanding academic and professional schedule while remaining committed to service both within Theta and her broader community. She has been recognized for her academic achievements, including an international MBA fellowship and for her service by the Atlanta Alumnae Panhellenic Association. A leader in award-winning digital marketing campaigns, Rachel believes in the power of women supporting women and inspiring others to get involved.

Community, Leadership, Advocacy



EPSILON
LAMBDA/
DICKINSON

Karen Siderovski

Attorney

Karen Siderovski is a family law and criminal law attorney with Koontz Law in North Carolina. First introduced to National CASA/GAL by Epsilon Lambda Chapter, her internship with PA CASA further inspired her path to law and advocacy. While attending Wake Forest Law and advising Zeta Omicron Chapter, she was sworn in as a CASA/GAL volunteer. Now a licensed attorney, she continues advocating for children and families. Karen aspires to become a certified family law mediator and, eventually, a district court judge. She strives to exemplify the values and moral code of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion



ETA THETA/
CENTRAL
FLORIDA

Whitney Michielssen

Director, Transitions Support & Training

Whitney Michielssen joined Best Buddies after a career change from the public school system where she worked as a guidance counselor. After serving in various roles for the State of Florida, she joined Best Buddies' global headquarters as director of transitions support & training. She is the author of Rabbit the Pawless Poodle Goes for a Walk, a book written about her own pawless poodle, Rabbit, who helped inspire her career in the disability community. The book focuses on themes of disability as a strength, accommodations, and inspiring hope. Her passions include spending time with her buddy, Erin; the adult down syndrome community in Orlando; and her rescue pets.



ETA PHI/
BELMONT

Samantha Hubner

Senior AI Policy Advisor

Samantha Hubner operates at the intersection of international security, emerging technologies, and responsible innovation. Her early career began abroad as a linguist and cross-cultural exchange specialist working in Northern Africa, Southeastern Europe, and Asia. Upon returning to the U.S., the big data revolution expanded the application of her geopolitical expertise to the realms of cyber, AI, and data science. After mastering these new "languages," in 2023, Samantha joined the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where she continues to help pioneer previously unprecedented norms in delivering public transparency for how the federal government is responsibly using, procuring, and securing AI.



BETA TAU/
DENISON

Abigail Zofchak

Chief of Financial Management for T-6 and ATUM, Legacy Training Aircraft, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center

Abigail Zofchak is the chief of financial management for T-6/ATUM at the Legacy Training Aircraft Division, U.S. Air Force. She leads budget formulation, justification, and execution for the T-6 and ATUM platforms. Previously, she served as Deputy Chief for Budget Program Integration in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management, and as Comptroller at the Pentagon. There, she managed the development and rollout of the Department of the Air Force's \$217 billion budget request and oversaw program and budget review processes for both the Air Force and Space Force.

Education



DELTA DELTA/
WHITMAN

Sayda Mitchell-Morales

Communications Director

Sayda Mitchell-Morales is a lifelong education advocate with over a decade of experience advancing equitable access to quality public education. A South Bronx native and daughter of immigrants, she was the first in her family to graduate college, earning degrees from Whitman College and Boston University. Sayda has served as a teacher, learning specialist, community impact manager, school board candidate, and is now communications director at Futuro San Antonio. In every role, she leverages her lived experience and strong work ethic to help close the achievement gap and ensure all children have the opportunity for a better future.

Government, Politics, Military Service



ALPHA MU/
MISSOURI

Maddie McMillian Green

Principal & Deputy General Counsel, HB Strategies

Maddie McMillian Green has spent most of her career in public service, advising statewide elected officials in Missouri, and now brings that experience to her work at HB Strategies. She represents Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, and public institutions such as her alma mater, helping them navigate state government and advance their goals. Maddie also contributes to the firm's 50 STATE practice, supporting multi-state strategies and engaging state attorneys general. Inspired by her own collegiate advisors, she serves on Alpha Mu Chapter's advisory board and the Missouri CASA Association Board. Maddie lives in St. Louis with her husband and their 18-month-old daughter.

Health, Medicine



KAPPA/
KANSAS

Kaitlin Wittler Brooks

M.D.

Kaitlin Wittler Brooks, MD, is a Med-Peds physician at University Health in Kansas City and an assistant professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She loves teaching students how good communication, especially listening well and connecting with patients, makes all the difference in care. As a mom of two busy boys, Dr. Wittler feels especially called to care for postpartum women, particularly those recovering from complicated pregnancies. Getting to see both mom and baby in one visit is one of her favorite parts of her job because when moms are cared for, their babies thrive, and families flourish.



EPSILON PI/
BUCKNELL

Holly Grosholz

Senior Director, Government Affairs

Holly Grosholz is an accomplished government affairs professional with over a decade of experience shaping healthcare policy at the state and federal levels. She has led successful advocacy campaigns across a range of issues with the goal of expanding access to innovative diagnostics and medical technologies. Holly is known for building bipartisan coalitions and securing legislative victories, including delayed Medicare payment cuts and expanded cancer screening access, all driven by her passion for improving patient access to care.



OMEGA/
UC BERKLEY

Claire Johns

Medical Doctor, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellow (will be Clinical Assistant Professor starting in August)

Claire Johns is a fellow physician in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Stanford University Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. She is passionate about providing medical care to children with cancer and improving patient outcomes through research. Her research focuses include creating better blood biomarkers to diagnose and treat pediatric cancers, as well as translating new immunotherapy treatments to patients. Claire started as a clinical assistant professor in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Stanford in August 2025.



BETA
UPSILON/
BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Briana Luck

Registered Nurse

Briana Luck is passionate about helping others, advancing her education, and enjoying outdoor activities. In her spare time, she goes snowboarding, hiking, and recently learned to play ice hockey! However, her biggest passion is her work as a pediatric surgical nurse at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver. In her four years there, she has acquired specializations in both post-op cardiac care and burn care. Her most exciting project was traveling to The Gambia this year with a group from her hospital, where she helped build relationships and provide education with their nurses, and completed 29 surgeries as a team.



Caterina Obenauf

Psychology Doctoral Candidate

Caterina Obenauf is a doctoral candidate in Psychology at the University of Tennessee. In her commitment to increase access to mental and cognitive health services, she founded an interdisciplinary conference to unite healthcare professionals, students, and advocacy groups to address mental health needs in East Tennessee; established free mental health resources for people with multiple sclerosis; and collaborated on national advocacy initiatives to ensure mental health providers can serve an increasingly diverse U.S. population. As a leukemia survivor, she has also raised funds for cancer research and has worked to increase awareness of mental and cognitive challenges due to cancer treatment.

THETA NU/
GEORGIA
TECH



Ainsley Patrick

Doctoral Student - Clinical Child Psychology

Ainsley Patrick is a third-year PhD student in Clinical Child Psychology at the University of Kansas. She has committed her career to investigating mechanisms underlying childhood anxiety. She researches the intersection of emotion regulation, attention biases, and intergenerational transmission within internalizing disorders. Ainsley has completed several research presentations and papers towards these aims and regularly attends conferences to disseminate research and collaborate with professionals to further the understanding of youth mental health and contribute to lessening the mental health crisis in the United States. Additionally, Ainsley volunteers with organizations to promote equitable access to education and sports for children.

EPSILON NU/
VIRGINIA
TECH



Mykelya Holmes

Entrepreneur

Mykelya Holmes is a multifaceted professional dedicated to service, empowerment, and entrepreneurship. She is the owner of Lets See Co. Photobooths, is a full-time USPS employee, works in Ground Operations for a prestigious airline, and serves as a Missouri realtor. Mykelya serves on several boards and committees: She serves on the Steering Committee for Safe Connections, she is the wellness and member support chair for United Way's Veteran Women of Influence, and she is secretary for the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter. Her goals include building generational wealth, uplifting her community, and advocating for women through action and impact.

ETA OMEGA/
SAINT LOUIS

Media, Communications

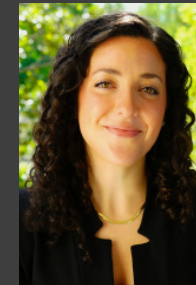


Baylee Clark

Account Executive

Baylee Clark is an account executive at Strong Automotive, where she manages advertising campaigns for car dealerships all over the country. When she's not on a flight to visit a client, she's volunteering in the Birmingham community through the Junior League, Mitchell's Place, and the Crisis Center. She currently serves as president of the Birmingham Alumnae Chapter and vice president of public relations for Birmingham Alumnae Panhellenic. She credits Theta with developing her love of service and hopes to share that passion with others.

DELTA
OMICRON/
ALABAMA



Chelsea Sabella

Vice President of Television

Chelsea Sabella is the vice president at Jerry Bruckheimer Television (JBTV), where she develops and produces television series for multiple broadcast and streaming platforms including current projects Fire Country, Sheriff Country, Boston Blue, and The Amazing Race. Prior to JBTV, Chelsea worked in streaming series as a television studio executive at CBS Studios. Chelsea came into this field after attending Loyola Marymount University (LMU) School of Film and Television, where she found a passion for helping shepherd the creative vision of talent that she works with and platforming important stories that haven't been told before.

ZETA OMEGA/
LOYOLA
MARYMOUNT



Sarah Rabin

PhD Student in Psychological Medicine

Sarah Rabin is a rising force in military mental health and a trailblazer in LGBTQ+ advocacy. A PhD candidate in Psychological Medicine at King's College London, her groundbreaking research is focused on the health and wellbeing of UK LGBTQ+ military personnel. She holds a master's degree in War and Psychiatry, where her thesis explored the psychological impact of the UK's final troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Sarah is driven to create lasting change in military psychology, challenging outdated systems and championing inclusive policies worldwide. At a pivotal time for LGBTQ+ rights, she remains committed to equity, representation, and support for all who serve.

ETA SIGMA/
CHAPMAN



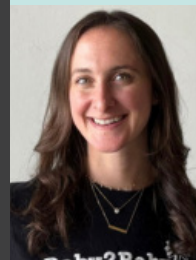
Jade Rosenberger

Physiotherapist

Jade Rosenberger is a physiotherapist who works primarily in the emergency department, focusing on vestibular and concussion care. She is researching ways to improve accessibility to vestibular and stroke care in rural communities. She also volunteers with Pool BRATS, an aquatic rehabilitation group supporting individuals and caregivers affected by brain cancer, stroke, or brain injury. Originally from a rural area, Jade is passionate about reducing barriers to care and plans to pursue graduate studies to help advance healthcare access in underserved communities.

BETA CHI/
ALBERTA

Philanthropy, Volunteerism



Emily Grossman

Director, Volunteer & Donor Relations

Emily Grossman has led the Volunteer & Community Engagement department at Baby2Baby for the past seven years. Baby2Baby is a national nonprofit that provides children living in poverty with basic necessities. Over the past 14 years, the organization has distributed more than 500 million essential items, including diapers, formula, and clothing to more than one million children annually across all 50 states. As director of volunteer & donor relations, Emily builds meaningful relationships and leads with empathy, strategy, and heart.

BETA DELTA/
ARIZONA



Mika Khan

President, Chandramohan Family Foundation

Mika Khan holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of San Francisco, and master's degrees in Social Work and Social Entrepreneurship from USC. Her nonprofit experience has included program development for AmeriCorps, mental health therapy for unhoused young adults, and serving as COO of CASA of Los Angeles, where she developed innovative programs to support LA County foster youth. Mika also founded an executive coaching firm where she supports nonprofit executives in driving impact. Now, as president of a family foundation, Mika strives to expand opportunity and access for underserved communities through philanthropy, embodying the next generation of purpose-driven leadership.

ETA UPSILON/
SAN
FRANCISCO

Innovation, Entrepreneurship



Olivia Atkin

Founder and CEO of Achieving Success LLC, Founder and CEO OF Turn To Designs, Host of the podcast Achieving Success with Olivia Atkin

Olivia Atkin is a globally recognized podcast strategist and the host of Achieving Success with Olivia Atkin, heard in more than 40 countries across all seven continents. As founder of Achieving Success LLC, she helps high-level clients launch and scale professional podcasts through tailored strategies, SEO, and streamlined workflows. Olivia is also the creator of Turn To Designs, an apparel brand supporting the U.S. Coast Guard. With an MBA and multiple industry certifications, she blends business acumen with creative vision. A TEDx speaker and author, Olivia is passionate about helping others achieve success while making a meaningful impact across industries.

ETA XI/
QUINNIPIAC

Technology



Colette Bersie

Product Lead

Colette Bersie is building her career at tech startups that transform communities. She currently leads product at AirGarage, bringing real estate online for smarter utilization of urban spaces. Before AirGarage, Colette worked at Bushel with a focus on digitizing agriculture for a sustainable future of farming. She has been recognized for her leadership in both agriculture and technology, including features in Future Farmer and a video series by Google highlighting early-stage startups. As a farm kid from Minnesota, Colette is passionate about rural communities and volunteers to support foster families in her town of Aberdeen, S.Dak.

GAMMA NU,
NORTH
DAKOTA
STATE



Audrey Bonn

Principal Technical Program Manager

Audrey Bonn is an IT leader with a passion for healthcare. Although she is proud of her career accomplishments, including her role as principal technical program manager at Oracle, Audrey strives to establish her legacy as a fierce mental health advocate. She has been volunteering with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) for more than a decade, spent three years answering calls for the National Suicide Hotline as a volunteer, and now serves as both a board of directors member and advocacy committee chair for the Greater Kansas Chapter of AFSP. Audrey hopes her dedication will bring us one step closer to a world without suicide.

GAMMA,
BUTLER



Sydney Solomon, PhD

Principal Scientist

Sydney Solomon, PhD, is a principal scientist using cutting edge genomic techniques to study biomarkers of patient disease and drug treatments in a pharmaceutical setting. Sydney has a BS in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering from Johns Hopkins and a PhD in Biological Engineering from MIT. During her doctoral studies, Sydney was recognized as a Siebel Scholar for her research excellence and service initiatives. She is proud to have supported and developed several graduate mentoring programs, spanning the application process to navigating higher education and beyond. Sydney continues to mentor within the Theta and greater science communities.

ZETA CHI/
JOHNS
HOPKINS



Jennifer Terry

PhD Candidate

Jen Terry is a PhD candidate in Environmental Sciences at Arkansas State University. Her research examines physiology (immune and endocrine function) and population dynamics in freshwater turtles. To date, Jen has published ten scientific articles. Jen earned her MS in Biology from Arkansas State University and her BA in Animal Behavior from Bucknell University. Jen is passionate about mentoring aspiring scientists and making science accessible for everyone. She also served two year-long terms in AmeriCorps at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. After Jen receives her doctoral degree, she hopes to pursue research and conservation positions at zoo/aquarium institutions.

EPSILON PI/
BUCKNELL

Science, Engineering



Dr. Rachel Leads

Aquatic Ecotoxicologist

Dr. Rachel Leads is an aquatic ecotoxicologist and postdoctoral research associate at Michigan State University. She received her BA in Biology from Albion College, MS in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston, and PhD in Biology from the University of North Texas. Rachel studies the effects of pollutants such as microplastics, oil spills, and PFAS in marine and freshwater ecosystems. Her research has been published in many leading journals and was featured in National Geographic. As a scientist and educator, Rachel is passionate about increasing representation in science, improving scientific literacy, and inspiring the next generation of scientists.

PI/
ALBION



Susanne Flod Lindheim

Architect

Susanne Flod Lindheim is responsible for her design technology team at the Nordic Office of Architecture in Oslo, Norway. She is developing an AI-powered tool for carbon tracking and reduction across the office's entire project portfolio, while educating colleagues on sustainable technology strategies to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030. Last year, Susanne volunteered as project lead for a community education center in Zimbabwe, designed with zero net carbon goals. This project will teach local residents skills to break cycles of poverty in their families and communities, demonstrating her commitment to sustainability and social impact globally.

UPSILON/
MINNESOTA

Other



Danielle Rushing Behrends

Member

Danielle Rushing Behrends is a proud Delta Kappa Chapter alumna, Life Loyal member, daughter, mother, and wife residing north of San Antonio, Tex. She is a partner at a national law firm and an active volunteer and board member of several nonprofits in the San Antonio metropolitan area and national organizations. Danielle continues to live out Kappa Alpha Theta's values of scholarship, service, leadership, personal excellence, and sisterhood and hopes to inspire future generations to blaze their own trails like Theta's founders, Bettie Locke, Bettie Tipton, Alice Allen, and Hannah Fitch, and Belva Lockwood, an American lawyer, politician, educator, and author who was active in the women's rights and women's suffrage movements.

**DELTA
KAPPA/**
LSU



Morgan Ryley

Structural Design Engineer

Morgan Ryley has both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Alabama. In her current role as a structural design engineer for nuclear power stations, she helps create a sustainable future for the generations to come with clean energy production. She has a passion for helping others which has driven her into her role as the Midwest President for an employee resource group that provides support, resources, and community needed by her colleagues and their loved ones to achieve success and inclusion through education and a culture of respect for people with disabilities.

**DELTA
OMICRON/**
ALABAMA



Avery Jackson

Sales Manager

Avery Jackson gives her time to many things, but her most important work is as a mom and advocate. She started The Mighty Mack Foundation with a mission of building scholarships for children from Oklahoma to attend physical therapy intensives that are not covered by insurance. Avery and her mom have owned Southern Stems, a floral design business, for almost eight years. She started teaching Pure Barre in 2018 and she absolutely loves to build confidence in others through teaching. Avery is also a sales manager, leading a team that spans the great state of Oklahoma.

BETA ZETA/
OKLAHOMA
STATE

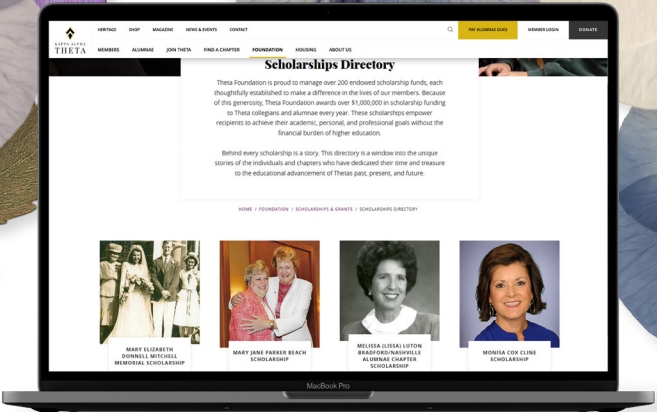


Savannah Wix

Attorney

Savannah Wix is an attorney in Snell & Wilmer's Special Litigation and Compliance Group, where she advises medical practices and facilities on regulatory compliance and represents healthcare providers in litigation and before state licensing boards. She earned her JD, cum laude, from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Dedicated to community engagement, Savannah serves on the Rosie's House Gala Planning Committee and as president-elect of the Maricopa County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. She also supports her alma mater as risk prevention advisor and co-advisory board chair (ABC) for Zeta Phi Chapter.

ZETA PHI/
PEPPERDINE



Theta Foundation's Scholarships Directory Brings Scholarships to Life

Theta Foundation is proud to debut the Scholarships Directory on the Theta website. After recognizing a gap in the information being collected and showcased about our many endowed scholarships, we wanted to find a way to preserve the inspiration behind these special funds.

A tangible representation of Theta Foundation's mission, the directory allows us to tell the unique stories behind these generous gifts in a place that is accessible to both members and non-members alike. We appreciate and recognize that, for many donors, these scholarships are a significant part of their families' legacies, and we want them to know that their stories are being told and that those stories will live on forever.

Theta Foundation's scholarship program is often referred to as the hallmark of our work, and for good reasons. As of 2025, Theta Foundation is consistently awarding more than \$1 million annually to Thetas pursuing undergraduate and graduate study. Last year alone, these funds benefitted nearly

450 members! Through the directory, we hope to underscore the significance of creating an endowed scholarship with our organization, highlighting the importance of these gifts, sharing their impact with our greater community, and creating meaningful connections with scholarship recipients.

Notably, the Scholarships Directory won the 2024 Award of Distinction for Best Stewardship Effort at the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence (FFE) Seminar. Theta was selected out of our fraternity and sorority peers, receiving one of only nine awards given by the FFE annually. The award was accepted by Theta Foundation Executive Director Kelley Hurst, Beta Iota/Colorado, and Theta Foundation Programs Director Mary Kate Smith, Gamma/Butler.

The Scholarships Directory is live on the Theta website with over 60 scholarships represented (and counting!). Interested readers are encouraged to peruse the inspiring stories and nostalgic memories shared via the entries; you will find that the testament of "Theta for a lifetime" is a common thread throughout.

Among the entries, you will find the Dinah Hampton McClymonds Scholarship. Dinah, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma, graciously provided us with a thank-you note from one of her recipients over the years, Abigail Jackson, Gamma Phi/Texas Tech, who was about to begin her first year of medical school at the time. In her note, Abigail shared that her mother had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer and that she had been her mother's caregiver over the summer. As a future doctor, she noted, "I have learned so much about being the patient's family, and this experience will truly impact



the way I treat patients' families. This scholarship has enabled me to spend the summer loving on my mom and preparing for medical school." This note hit close to home for Dinah, who was two years post-breast cancer herself when she received it and understood how meaningful that precious time together was for both Abigail and her mother. Dinah said, "The fact that she attributes my scholarship with allowing her to devote time to her mother instead of perhaps taking a summer job is why we know how important our gifts to [Theta] Foundation are."

Another touching story is found in the Jill Morrison Memorial Scholarship entry. This scholarship was established in memory of Jill Marie Morrison, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi, who was initiated into the chapter in 1987 and passed away after a brief and unexpected illness in 1989. Jill's sister, Ardith Morrison Morgan, was a member of Epsilon Zeta Chapter when Jill joined. Ardith said, "Watching Jill run down the hill to the Theta house [on bid day] was one of the most special days of my life." After her death, Jill's family felt that establishing a scholarship in her memory would allow her legacy to live on while helping other outstanding young



Thetas achieve their educational goals. Ardith said, "It has been a privilege and a blessing to see my sister's memorial scholarship awarded to Epsilon Zeta Chapter's leading women for the past 35 years, particularly during the last seven. Each summer, I open a recipient's thank you note and literally jump for joy to see that the Epsilon Zeta Chapter legacy continues through the Jill Morrison Memorial Scholarship. I am so thankful for Theta Foundation for facilitating this award, and for my friends and family who contribute to the endowment, which has helped so many women achieve their collegiate and post-graduate goals."



If you are the fund contact for a Theta Foundation scholarship and your fund is not yet represented in the directory, please contact us! Inquiries can be directed to Mary Kate Smith, Theta Foundation programs director, at mksmith@kappaalphatheta.org.



*Notable Thetas: Uncovering
Alice Wilkey Poynter and
Eleanor Poynter Jamison*

By: Archives Intern Allie Obringer, ALPHA PSI/LAWRENCE

Every chapter has their celebrity alumnae whom older members reverently mention to new ones for the sake of upholding local legacies. Doing my diligence as then-vice president education (VPE) at Alpha Psi Chapter, I held out the Grand President pages of 150 Years of Kappa Alpha Theta to our new member class of 2024. Proudly, I pointed to the only woman to serve three terms, saying, "Monnie Killen Banta was a student here too."

Though the pandemic interrupted the memory of local history, Alpha Psi Chapter members still knew of Monnie, if only from the scholarship in her name. A little clueless in my first months in Theta, I believed without proof she must have been important. After all, Lawrentians park their cars at the football stadium called the Banta Bowl (because we certainly aren't watching the games).

Nevertheless, in time, we restored our knowledge of Monnie through the digitized *Theta Magazine*. Seeing her extensive importance within Theta, I wondered why she did not show up as one of Alpha Psi Chapter's notables. I brought this question to Staff Archivist Noraleen Young when I interviewed to be her archives intern for summer 2025. She kindly explained the two kinds of notability: those recognized for their Theta work and those recognized outside of Theta. Regardless, my work under her this summer cemented my understanding of the difference when we uncovered two Thetas who had gone decades unidentified as notables.



ALLIE IN THE
THETA ARCHIVES

On my first day at Theta headquarters, I received a tour that paused at the plaque of donors for the building's construction. My eyes passed over Eleanor Poynter Jamison to "Margaret Killen Banta Memorial," and I was satisfied, unaware of whom I had missed.

My discovery of Eleanor's legacy would begin in the building's lower level, in letters from 1900. Daily, I stepped into the life of Edna, Bettie Locke Hamilton's older daughter. After graduation tore her friends away from Greencastle, home to DePauw, her correspondence list became so large she kept a chart in her memo book. Her friends, with their familiarity and private words, pulled me from my office into the years 1900 to 1904: family correspondence, long-awaited marriages, and for a careerwoman like Edna, uncertain futures.

Most of Edna's friends wrote beautifully and consistently. Many of them were teachers. Alice Wilkey, however, always wrote as if in a rush. Seeing her inky scrawl, I'd fill with dread. Reading her letters required more deductive work than anyone else's.

Nevertheless, those blotches of ink contained a sweetness so heartwarming that Alice was impossible not to adore. She was often inviting Edna to "come on where a hearty welcome would be awaiting you." The ever-increasing fervor and tenderness of Alice's requests made me hope Edna would finally visit, though I was skeptical of Alice's promises that there was much to do in small town of Sullivan, Ind. Reaching May 1900, I found myself giddy when Alice first signed with an added "P" for Alice Wilkey Poynter.

Soon enough, her letters began to arrive in envelopes labeled *Sullivan Democrat* and with "Proprietor Paul Poynter," her husband, on the letterhead. At the bottom, where she signed "AWP," she would write the date and time beside "Office." Alice was not at their cottage using leftover stationery, nor did the times of day suggest she was just passing through. More likely, she was at the office to work alongside her husband on the newspaper. After she mentioned writing on the economics of Jacksonian democracy, I became determined to prove she wrote for the paper.

That resolve quickly hit a wall at the Indiana State Library one Friday afternoon after

work. I navigated the rows of Indiana's microfilmed newspapers until I landed at Sullivan's, yet unknowing that Eleanor Poynter Jamison had funded their making in the '80s. Peeling through two months of issues of her father's paper, I sought any relevant article title once realizing no writers were credited. When I showed up on Monday empty-handed, Noraleen assured me, historically, it was incredibly likely Alice contributed to the newspaper without credit. Still, I hoped for undeniable proof.

I continued to dig. Her obituary in the *New York Times* revealed she had served on the parole/pardon board of the Indiana Women's Prison for nearly three decades; this position, governor-appointed, is what makes her notable.

Though her state position seals her Theta-wide recognition, her life and local legacy continue beyond it. Her husband, Paul, established the *Sullivan Daily Times* as the second family newspaper. She and Eleanor, their daughter, acquired the paper from him in 1933, and then Alice became the publisher under his name until his death in 1950. That year, the "Sullivan Daily Job Dept" would also publish

Alice's book, *Prison Sketches*. Though the book is long out of print, the *Sullivan Daily Times* is still an active paper.

Alice's investment in women's leadership brought her to Theta, the Propylaeum Club of Indianapolis, and the Sullivan Woman's Club for which she was once president. Digitized Indiana newspapers and her letters suggest she regularly authored papers on politics, economics, feminism, and culture. She was an intelligent woman; quitting college after one year never prevented her from being an academic.

All these Indiana-based accomplishments would give her a place in *Indiana Lives*, a reference book "recording the biographies of contemporary leaders in Indiana," which finally, *finally* told me what I wanted to know: "Mrs. Poynter wrote for various newspapers for many years." Indeed, Alice, along with her husband, son, and daughter, was a journalist. She wrote for the family newspapers.

This brings us to Eleanor, Alice's "great girl," who managed and edited the *Sullivan Daily Times* from 1929 until 1950, when she became publisher after her mother, though with her own name. She ran two other

papers and was recognized with the Fanny Wright Memorial Award for "the Hoosier woman who has distinguished herself in the field of journalism" in 1949. She was the first woman on the board of directors of the Hoosier State Press Association that same year, and eventually the first woman president of the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association in 1958. Like her mother, she was heavily involved in the Sullivan Woman's Club, the Business and Professional Woman's Club, and even appointed to the Indiana Women's Prison parole/pardon board from 1940-1945. She would fund the preservation of profuse legacies with her donations to the Indiana State Library, the University of South Florida's Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, and our own headquarters in Indianapolis. After her death, the Chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy of the Journalism school at University of South Florida was named after her.

Some readers may have perked up immediately when they saw the name Alice Wilkey Poynter: Eleanor worked with Theta Foundation to establish a scholarship in her mother's name after she died in 1978. Given this, one may wonder how we did not

know either of them were notables until this year.

The Biographical Files (or Significant Thetas That Aren't Notable)

There are many significant Thetas who are accomplished, community thinkers and contributors, but the community they most contributed to is our own. Some of these Thetas, like Monnie Killen Banta, are recognized by a Theta Foundation scholarship in their names. By contrast, notable Thetas are externally recognized by other organizations or associations, or in governmentally appointed positions. To keep a record of these Thetas' contributions and to preserve their legacies, they have a special place in the Fraternity archives: the biographical files.

While these significant Thetas are not searchable in the Notable database, they are preserved in the Theta archives, and we pass down their names and stories in our notes or orations and share with our chapters and others, the same way we do with much of our treasured traditions.

On this note, I argue a third category of notability—unofficial, but just as real and valuable, significant in our own lives.

Our Personal Notables

We only realized Alice Wilkey Poynter's significance because Edna Locke Hamilton kept her letters. While most individuals destroyed their correspondence, Edna filtered her collection and gave it to her grandniece. Bettie appears to have had a strong sense of her place in history, and it continued among her daughters, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter. Edna likely knew the letters would eventually land in someone's hands, perhaps even an

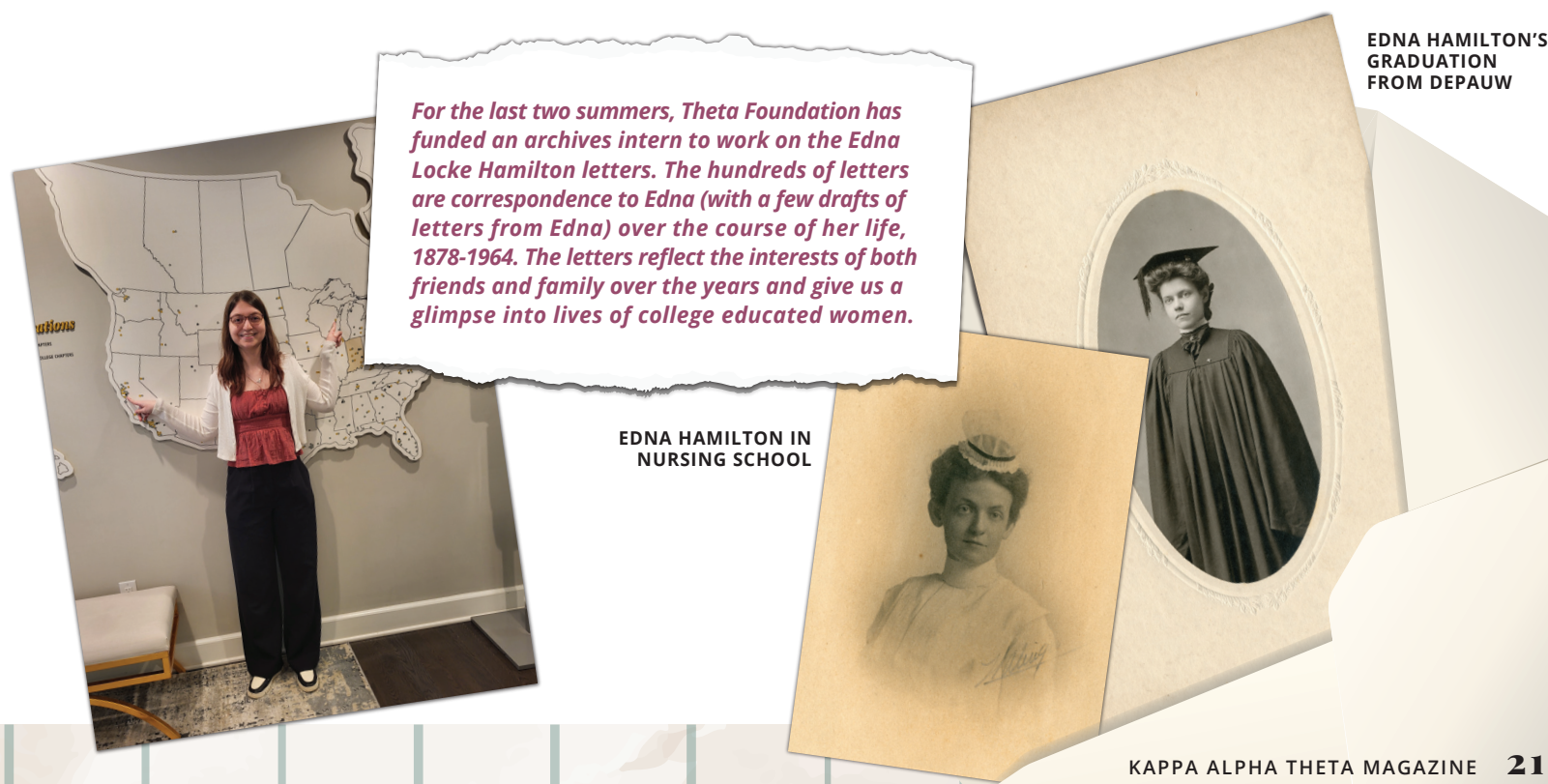
archivist for Kappa Alpha Theta. She saved these scraps from people she loved throughout her life, allowing others to meet and grow to love them too.

Alice claimed a special place in my heart with her honest gentleness, inviting Edna to "decide to be loved for a while" or stay "until you are so loved that you can stand it no longer." Not only are these invitations heartwarming, but it is striking that they acknowledge the surrender involved in friendship: vulnerability is difficult but necessary to be known and loved, and we must surrender our fear of it to be known over and over as we allow ourselves to accept love.

Even after they lost touch for a few years, they wrote again with the warmth of love

sustained through distance and time. Of the 24 correspondents Edna had in 1900, she kept letters from only nine of them. And for most of those nine, she kept only a few. She saved 15 of Alice's letters, perhaps rereading them over the years. For decades, Edna kept Alice's contact, with Eleanor's birthday, in her memo book.

This is the third kind of notability: those long-lasting Theta friendships that never leave us, holding influence over ourselves and our lives. Like Edna and Alice at either end, Thetas can forge an immutable friendship with their mutual courage to love and decide to be loved for a while.

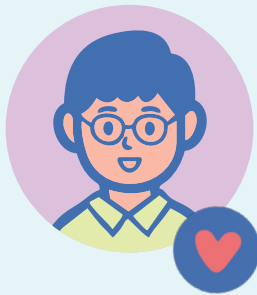


For the last two summers, Theta Foundation has funded an archives intern to work on the Edna Locke Hamilton letters. The hundreds of letters are correspondence to Edna (with a few drafts of letters from Edna) over the course of her life, 1878-1964. The letters reflect the interests of both friends and family over the years and give us a glimpse into lives of college educated women.

EDNA HAMILTON IN
NURSING SCHOOL

EDNA HAMILTON'S
GRADUATION
FROM DEPAUW

When Justice Called, Helen Answered



In life, moments, both important and mundane, often bleed together. Bits and pieces of memories are often lost shortly after they happen or gradually over time. It is rare to point to a moment and confidently say it changed the trajectory of one's life. But for **Helen Wallace, Alpha Tau/Cincinnati**, it was a day like any other spent at the Kappa Alpha Theta house. On that day, a woman, rather a court appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteer, visited the quaint cream-colored house on Clifton Avenue, standing inside the glassed-in front porch, to share more about the purpose of being a volunteer advocate.

"You know when things just strike your heart?"

HELEN SAID.

"Less than five times in my life have I had a moment where I (think), *This is for you.*"



That day, Helen knew she wanted to serve as a CASA/GAL volunteer. Although, if one were to ask her parents, they would say that Helen has always had a "strong sense of justice." When Helen met her first CASA volunteer, she was not yet old enough to become one herself and already decided on attending law school after graduating from Cincinnati. A few years later, Helen graduated from George Washington University with her Juris Doctorate. That was the beginning of her journey as a public servant. Over the last 20 years, she has worked as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and guardian ad litem (GAL).

Through her experience in Montgomery County, Ohio, she witnessed GALs in action and how they became a voice for underprivileged children. After having her own two children, Helen went into private practice and became a GAL. GALs have the same responsibilities as CASAs, and the only difference is that GALs can file a motion while still serving in their role.

"Almost always, courts follow the GAL's recommendations," Helen said. "They are the eyes and ears of the court outside of the courtroom."

But years before becoming a GAL, a law student, or a Theta, Helen was just a bright eyed seven-year-old girl embarking on a new, unfamiliar journey across the Atlantic to the United States. An immigrant from South Africa, Helen grew up during an apartheid regime at an age that should have been filled with playing and laughter, not the shadows of racial discrimination.

Helen had a caretaker growing up who looked after her and her three sisters, someone she and her parents considered to be a part of the family. But her caretaker lived in a township. During apartheid, thousands of Black people lived in townships: underdeveloped, usually urban, racially segregated settlements sitting on dirt roads, full of small, square metal homes that would not be fit for any person, let alone their family. Her caretaker left her own family to take care of Helen's each day.



"I was aware of the disparities and such unbalanced rights from a young age," Helen said. "I just thought, how can this happen, how can a system like this exist?"

That experience left Helen with deep admiration for parents who must work multiple jobs to support their families.

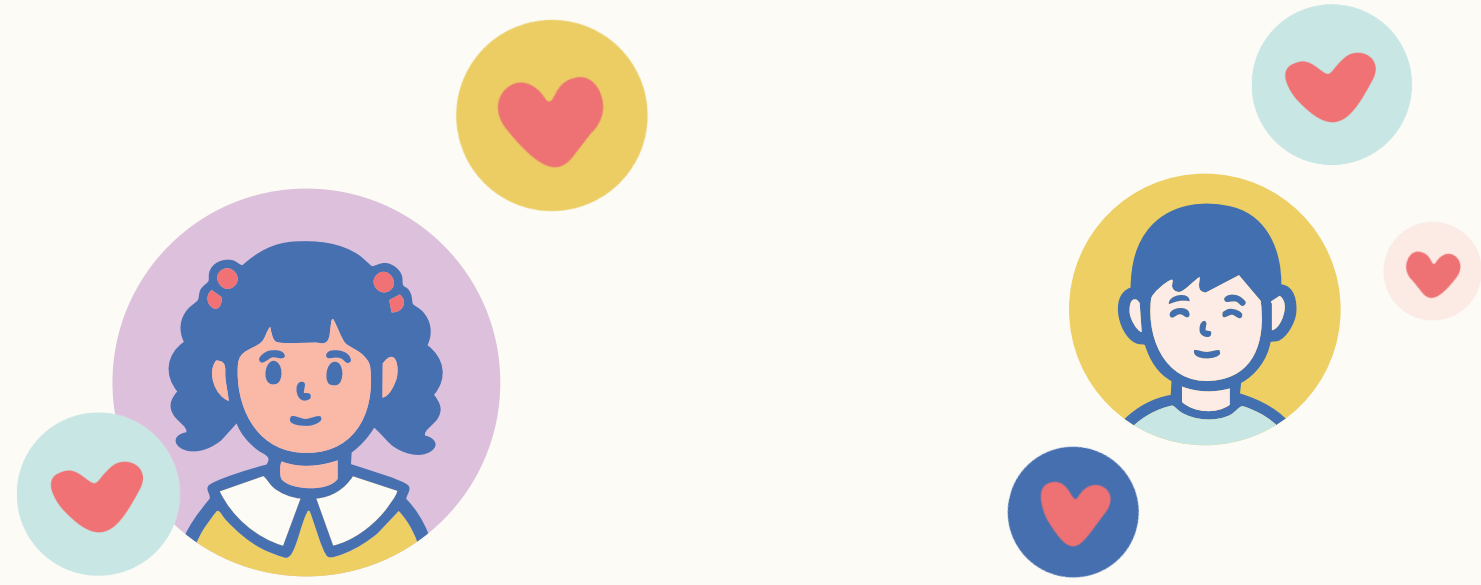
Despite the turmoil of immigration, she became a U.S. citizen at 15 and has continued to find ways to make children going through the unimaginable feel supported and cared for each day. She made history while doing it. In 2019, Helen became the first female judge elected to the Montgomery County Juvenile Court, and in 2023, she became the administrative judge, overseeing around 450 employees.

While Helen no longer works as a GAL, she works with GALs every day and continues to be a strong supporter of their mission. After the federal grants for National CASA/GAL were cut without warning in April, millions of people, including past volunteers, were left devastated. But in August, after appeals and perseverance, the Department of Justice reversed the funding termination, and all three grants were reinstated.

Among their many responsibilities, CASA/GALs can visit a child's school to check on their records and make sure they are not falling behind. They can even access a child's medical records to ensure their receiving proper immunizations. CASA and GAL volunteers give voices to children who would otherwise not be heard. They observe things that impact a child's life that otherwise would not be seen. No one else in the system except for a CASA/GAL volunteer, can do these things for a child.



"The work that I did as a GAL is some of the best work of my life," Helen said. "Sometimes these little kiddos have no one. You have the privilege of getting to know them and becoming (their) friend."



Champions FOR Children



THE PROBLEM: OVERWHELMED SYSTEMS

Child welfare systems are in a **state of crisis**, partly due to a devastating opioid epidemic.

More than **360,000 children** are in foster care on any given day.

The average child in foster care spends **more than a year in care**.

THE SOLUTION: ADVOCATES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer advocates are **screened, trained, and supported** by program staff.

Volunteers form a **one-on-one relationship** with a child and get a full picture of the case.

Judges depend on volunteers for critical information to help them make the most well-informed decisions in the child's best interests.

"My CASA volunteer taught me how to use my head, how to think about the future. He helped me become the person I am today."

JOSH, FORMER FOSTER YOUTH & WEST POINT GRADUATE

"CASA volunteers play a unique role on behalf of some of our most vulnerable children. Their commitment, vigilance and persistence offer hope where there has been little."

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, FOUNDER OF THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

THE RESULTS: RESEARCH HAS SHOWN...

A child with a volunteer is **half as likely to reenter the foster care system**.

CASA/GAL volunteers help **build hope and resiliency** in the children they serve.

OUR VISION: SERVING EVERY CHILD

79,000 volunteers lend their voices to advocate for children and youth nationwide.

201,000 children who have experienced abuse or neglect had a volunteer speaking up for their best interests in the last year.

"It is our goal that every child in the dependency system has a trained CASA or GAL volunteer [...] We have seen firsthand that these volunteer advocates make a positive difference in children's lives."

STATEMENT BY 15 PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

★ Building Connections & Strengthening Leadership

2025 K A T H FACILITY DIRECTOR CONFERENCE

This past July, the Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) proudly hosted its third Facility Director Conference, bringing together facility directors (FDs) from across the country for a week of learning, collaboration, and connection. Held at the Alpha Theta Chapter facility at the University of Texas at Austin, the event served as a dynamic platform for professional development and team bonding.



A WARM WELCOME IN THE LONE STAR STATE

The conference kicked off on Monday as the FHC property management team welcomed the FDs to Austin. Tuesday was dedicated to onboarding new FDs, those just beginning their journey with the FHC or who had recently joined the team. These newcomers received an in-depth introduction to FHC operations, systems, and expectations, along with valuable one-on-one time with their property managers.

As the day progressed, returning FDs began arriving, greeted with a warm welcome and an overview of the conference schedule. The evening offered a chance to unwind and connect through social activities, setting the tone for a collaborative and engaging week.



WEDNESDAY: LEARNING, LEADERSHIP, & RISK MANAGEMENT

Wednesday's sessions began with a compelling presentation from Tiffany Maurovich of MJ Insurance who spoke on mitigating risks within chapter facilities. Attendees also heard from Jordan Wigton and Jared Bost, founders of Rosemary Food Service, who generously sponsored the conference and provided all meals. Their session offered insights into their company's operations and partnership with the FHC.

Teresa Smith, FHC executive director, joined virtually to share the history of the FHC, current initiatives, and future goals. The afternoon focused on crisis management training and scenario-based discussions, equipping FDs with tools to respond effectively in challenging situations. Attendees actively participated in facilitated conversations.

After a full day of learning, FDs had the evening free to explore Austin. For those seeking relaxation, Jessica Mylan, FD for Beta Epsilon Chapter, led a rejuvenating yoga session open to all skill levels.

THURSDAY: EXPLORATION & EXPERTISE

Thursday morning offered a refreshing change of pace with excursions to some of Austin's notable gems: the Blanton Museum of Art, Zilker Botanical Garden, and the LBJ Presidential Library. These outings provided a relaxed environment for the FDs to bond and enjoy the city's vibrant offerings.

The afternoon resumed with sessions led by property managers covering HR policies, Microsoft Teams utilization, and the project management and design process. Long-standing FDs also shared their experiences and strategies for success, offering invaluable peer-to-peer learning.

Before dinner, FHC staff honored several FDs for their years of dedicated service:

11 years

Diane Carroll, FD for Alpha Xi/Oregon

10 years

Sharon Carr, FD for Beta Theta/Idaho

9 years

Annette Williams, FD for Delta/Illinois

7 years

Julie Hill, FD for Gamma Tau/Tulsa

6 years

Edrie Ramsey, FD for Beta Nu/Florida State

5 years

Jorjean Horning, FD for Beta Omicron/Iowa

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Thursday evening provided time for relaxation and final moments of connection before departures on Friday. The conference was a resounding success, offering a blend of education, inspiration, and camaraderie. As FHC staff look ahead, the team is already excited to plan future conferences that continue to empower FDs and strengthen the bonds that make this organization thrive.

"I love going to these conferences[.] I [enjoy] getting to know all the other FDs and PMs, which ... helps us all be able to work together and support each other."

Diane Carroll, FD for Alpha Xi/Oregon

"It was really great to be able to connect with all the FDs and PMs. I very much appreciated the opportunity!"

Michelle Hensler, FD for Alpha Lambda/Washington

Snaps

ALUMNAE,
REUNIONS,
+ EVENTS



INDIVIDUAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A The **Birmingham, MI Alumnae Chapter** gathered for Founders Day this year. Pictured are the chapter's 50-year members and the whole group in attendance.

B In 1975, this group of members from **Eta Chapter** at the **University of Michigan**, initiated as a new member class in 1962, celebrated their 20th reunion with a weekend together at a sister's cottage on Lake Michigan. Since that first reunion, they've been gathering somewhere in the country every five years. They take turns planning a weekend together in locations such as Chicago, Washington D.C., Cape Cod, San Francisco, Florida, Vermont, or back in Michigan, as it was this past May. As time has passed, they have moved their reunions up to every three years!

C The **Coachella Valley Desert Alumnae Circle** gathered in Palm Desert, Calif., for its spring event. **Becky Monaghan Humpherys, Gamma Sigma/San Diego State**, shared, "We all gathered to celebrate Theta sisterhood and reminisce about our fondest memories on our respective college campuses."

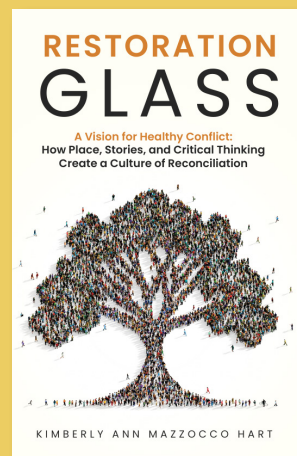
D The **Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter** celebrated Founders Day with an afternoon tea in March at the home of **Michele Sebastian Price, Alpha Upsilon/Washburn**.

E **Cydney Donnell, Delta Omega/Texas A&M**, received the 2025 Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus Award, which recognizes alumni who have achieved excellence in their chosen professions and made meaningful contributions to Texas A&M University and their local communities. Cydney built an impressive career in commercial real estate, and she eventually returned to Texas A&M as executive professor and director of the Master of Real Estate Program.

F **Lisa Goodlad, Omicron/USC**, and **Jane Palmer Horlings, Rho/Nebraska**, posed for this photo at the **South Orange County Alumnae Chapter's** Founders Day celebration.

G In March, **Lisa Hamlin Vieira** posed with **Dianne Hargrove Wehenkel**, both **Gamma Sigma/San Diego**, in their 50-year pins at the **San Diego Alumnae Chapter** Founders Day celebration.





H Members of the **Houston Alumnae Chapter** visited the Holocaust Museum together.

Earlier this year, **Kimberly Mazzocco Hart, Zeta Mu/ MIT**, debuted *Restoration Glass: A Vision for Healthy Conflict; How Place, Stories, and Critical Thinking Create a Culture of Reconciliation*. It is part of her work with the Fairlight Forum, a "third space" to be a place to hear and to be heard, and where groups may come to discuss complex issues in a setting that encourages vulnerability, creativity, empathy, and critical thinking.

J Some Milwaukee alumnae celebrated International Badge Day earlier this year with the Milwaukee Alumnae Panhellenic. **Cheryl Naasko Pounds, Psi/ Wisconsin**, shared, "Three Thetas were present along with Tri-Sigma, Sigma Kappa, and Alpha Sigma Alpha."

K The **Naples-Marco Island-Bonita Springs Alumnae Chapter** honored four milestone celebrations at its 2025 Founders Day celebration: **Carol Publitz Berning, Delta Sigma/Ball State**, and **Leigh Ann Colombo Mills, Beta Pi/Michigan State**, celebrated 50 years, and **Donna Reinecke Elliot, Gamma Lambda/Beloit**, and **Nelda Kemmerer Elliff, Psi/ Wisconsin**, celebrated 75 years.

L Texas Thetas represented at the Nashville Theta Lunch Bunch! Pictured are **DLinda Stephens Law, Gamma Phi/Texas Tech**; **Mary Bess Corbin, Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor**; and **Lyndsey Escobar, Gamma Phi/Texas Tech**.

M The **NC Triangle Alumnae Chapter** had a great Founders Day celebration!

N The **Pasadena Alumnae Chapter** enjoyed a holiday tea together.

O **Kerstin Heitzenrater, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State**; **Carly Young, Beta Tau/Denison**; and **Kelsea Cooper, Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan**, all presidents for their respective chapters, snapped this photo at the **Columbus Alumnae Chapter's** Founders Day celebration. All three Ohio chapters are #1 in scholarship among the women's groups!





P Rachel Sprouse, **Gamma Omega/Auburn**, was recognized by the Atlanta Area Panhellenic Association with the LuAnn Rhodes Alumna Scholarship. Rachel is a two-time recipient of this scholarship and celebrated this achievement with her fellow Atlanta alumnae sisters.



Q Many Thetas attended the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee (FSPAC) 20th anniversary gala dinner in April in Washington, D.C.



R Thanks for this wonderful group photo, Vancouver Thetas!



S Earlier this year, **Karen Albrecht Ledbetter, Gamma Tau/Tulsa**, was honored as Northwest Houston Panhellenic Woman of the Year! Members of the **Houston NW Alumnae Chapter** gathered to celebrate her.



T At the 2025 Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) State Conference in Williamsburg, **Christina Vandenberg Palo, Eta Rho/James Madison**, won the Virginia Outstanding Teacher of American History Award. She teaches at James Madison High School in Vienna, Va. Christina was nominated for the award by **Stephanie Talley Campbell, Delta Omicron/Alabama**, of the Dr. Elisha Dick Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).



U The **Vero Beach Alumnae Chapter** celebrated Founders Day earlier this year. Among those pictured are **Danielle Parker McLean, Eta Theta/Central Florida**; **Barbara Schlitt Ford, Beta Nu/Florida State**; **Dena Russell Cornforth, Beta Zeta/Oklahoma State**; **Ginger Gardner Featherstone, Delta Theta/Florida**; **Gretchen Greenlee Queen, Beta Tau/Denison**; **Sally Jane Birdsong Woods, Beta Sigma/SMU**; **Vicki Totter Hess, Delta Theta/Florida**; **Charlote Rotter Linhart, Beta Nu/Florida State**; **Cyndy Cotton Orrick, Lambda/Vermont**; **Kathy Roberts, Delta Theta/Florida**; **Carol Bartlett Recio, Delta Theta/Florida**; **Cheri Trump Scanlan, Delta Theta/Florida**; **Susan Tiholiz Keating, Tau/Northwestern**; **Betsy Randolph Tompkins, Tau/Northwestern**; **Julie Dacy Crispin, Delta Theta/Florida**; **Megan Simon, Epsilon Psi/Richmond**; **Diane Detwiler Lynn, Gamma Kappa/George Washington**; **Kathy Bennett Tonkel, Eta/Michigan**; and **Colette Johnston Hedien, Psi/Wisconsin**.

HOW SHOULD I WEAR MY THETA BADGE?

With Founders Day around the corner, Thetas around North America will be wearing their Theta badges proudly at their local celebrations. Here are some reminders and tips on how to wear your badge.



WEARING YOUR THETA BADGE

According to the *Ritual Book*, “Our badge should always be the highest piece of jewelry worn on the left side, above the heart. Other Theta pins and jewelry should always be worn below and outside, at a lower level than your badge.”

When wearing your badge, business attire should be worn; jeans, sweatshirts/sweatpants, or other casual attire is not considered badge attire.

50- and 75-year members may place their respective membership anniversary pins to the right of the badge, if they choose to wear a guard on the left. If no guard is being worn, the pin may be worn to the left.

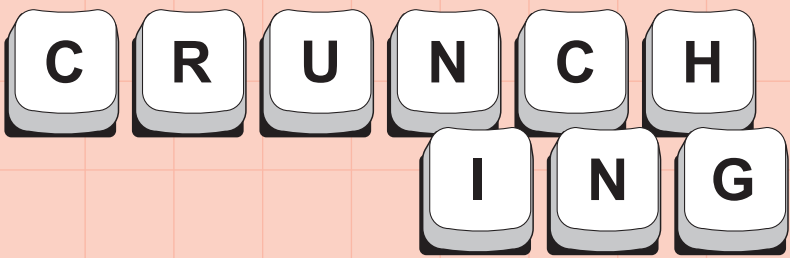
“The badge worn is a sign of pride in the concept. The vows taken are a symbol of commitments made and received, commitments that last forever.”

-Norma Anderson Jorgensen, Grand President 1968-1972



More than **15,000** Thetas have registered

More than 50% of alumnae have marked themselves “Willing to Help” as a mentor or career resource

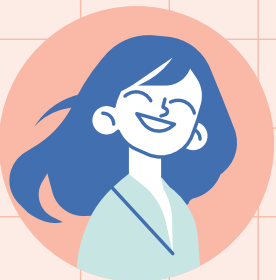


the **Theta** **CONNECT** *numbers*

Found in the Resources area

More than 30 resources are available to help mentors and mentees create and maintain mentoring relationships

More than 300 Thetas have found a mentor and/or participated in a mentoring program



BETA DELTA/ARIZONA

ALPHA MU/MISSOURI

Five college chapters have more than 300 members in ThetaConnect

DELTA KAPPA/LSU

DELTA THETA/FLORIDA

DELTA OMEGA/TEXAS A&M



Dozens of Theta events are listed in the Events area

New!

Nearly 20 groups are focused on a particular career path, including the newest group:

THETA VETERINARIANS, VET TECHS, VET STUDENTS, & PRE-VET STUDENTS

If you haven't joined ThetaConnect yet, you are missing out!
Enrich your Theta experience by joining ThetaConnect today.

thetacconnect.org

BECOME *a* *Life Loyal* THETA!

When you become a Life Loyal member, you help fund educational, communications, and personal development programs for all Thetas. By becoming Life Loyal, you receive every printed issue of the *Theta Magazine*, Fraternity dues payments for life*, a handcrafted lapel pin, a personalized wallet card, and more.

*Not including alumnae chapter dues.



You can join and **pay online** by visiting **www.kappaalphatheta.org/members/life-loyal/join-life-loyal**.



To join and **pay by mail**, print the **enrollment form** available at **thetalifeloyal.com** and mail the completed form with your check or credit card info to **Kappa Alpha Theta, attn: Angela Merk, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268**.



To join and **pay by phone**, call Theta headquarters, **800-526-1870 ext. 140**, and provide your contact and payment information.

THESE WOMEN ENROLLED BETWEEN MAY 1 AND JULY 31, 2025.

Iota/Cornell | Kim Mohr Rotondo

Kappa/Kansas | Paige Gratton

Phi/Pacific | Erica Bayley McKillips

Omega/UC Berkeley | Sydney Koutrouba

Alpha Gamma/Ohio State | Lois Cochran Crow-Kliwer and Erin Bernardo Stoner

Delta/Illinois | Kristen Kozeliski Katula

Alpha Upsilon/Washburn | Carol Zimmerman Barry

Alpha Chi/Purdue | Selita Smith Reichart

Alpha Psi/Lawrence | Melissa Munch Thompson

Beta Iota/Colorado | Juliana Carpinelli

Beta Lambda/William & Mary | Christen Laney Erskine

Beta Xi/UCLA | Kathleen Sullaway Gilkey, Kate Larsen, Marie Repczynski, and Evie Wigdale

Gamma Zeta/Connecticut | Samantha Salas

Gamma Phi/Texas Tech | Katie Roberts Laffere and Carolyn Grigsby Regala

Gamma Chi/Fresno State | Karen Busch Harrison

Gamma Psi/TCU | Erica Savage Garcia

Delta Eta/Kansas State | Geraldine Coffman

Delta Theta/Florida | Laura Chassell Harding

Delta Kappa/LSU | Marsha Curry Greer and Angelle St. Germain

Delta Omicron/Alabama | Holly Burns and Beth Martin

Epsilon Phi/Chicago | Liz Handlin

Eta Lambda/~ | Emily Lyons

Eta Sigma/Chapman | Mahika Churiwala

Unsure about joining Life Loyal but want to support the next generation of Thetas? Pay your annual alumnae dues! Learn more at **thetaforalifetime.org**.


KAPPA ALPHA THETA
Life Loyal

INTRODUCING



Songs of Theta



— Napa Valley —

Shop this special release at blackandgold.com.



THE H LIDAY SEASON IS HERE!



If you need a quick gift, check out
our Amazon Storefront!



Voices

Setbacks, speed bumps, obstacles, or whatever you want to call them are part of every journey. Luckily, you will get through them, and better, brighter days are ahead.

You got this.

Isabella Markovski-Dickey

ALPHA/DEPAUW

(See page 3.)

This past July, the Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) proudly hosted its third Facility Director Conference, bringing together facility directors (FDs) from across the country for a week of learning, collaboration, and connection.

"Building Connections & Strengthening Leadership"

(See page 26.)

With your support, the Friendship Fund will endure, and we will continue to be able to support members when their need is that which the Friendship Fund was created to aid.

Erica D'Angelo Ochs

ETA NU/LAKE FOREST

(See page 6.)

The work that I did as a GAL is some of the best work of my life. Sometimes these little kiddos have no one. You have the privilege of getting to know them and becoming (their) friend.

Helen Wallace

ALPHA TAU/CINCINNATI

(See page 22.)

[V]ulnerability is difficult but necessary to be known and loved, and we must surrender our fear of it to be known over and over as we allow ourselves to accept love.

Allie Obringer

ALPHA PSI/LAWRENCE

(See page 18.)